

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 VO-03 SCA-01
PPT-01 /077 W

-----171759Z 068651 /43

O R 171537Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3938
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5106

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW
SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ACCESS TO FRG PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION BUILDING AND FRG/GDR RELATIONS

REF: BERLIN 5097 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS OF JANUARY 17, GDR POLICE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN SPOT
ID CHECKS OF GDR CITIZENS LEAVING THE FRG PERMREP IN EAST
BERLIN, BUT HAVE NOT REINSTITUTED ACCESS CONTROLS OF
JANUARY 11. FRG PERMREP OFFICER LEHMANN REPORTS THAT IN
SPITE OF THE JANUARY 11 MEASURES, HIGHER THAN AVERAGE NUMBER
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OF EAST GERMAN CITIZENS VISITED THE REPRESENTATION ON
JANUARY 13 AND 14 (APPROXIMATELY 65 PER DAY, AS OPPOSED
TO THE CURRENT AVERAGE OF 40 TO 50). LEHMANN NOTED THAT
THERE WERE NO FIRST TIME VISITORS AMONG THIS GROUP, SO IT
WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF
POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION WUOLD BE
FRIGHTENEED OFF BY THE GDR'S LATEST CONTROLS.

2. LEHMANN SAID THAT TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CAUSED DEEPENING CONCERN IN THE FRG PERMREP, ONE DATING FROM OCTOBER, THE OTHER FROM THE END OF DECEMBER. SINCE OCTOBER, THE FRG HAS RECEIVED INCREASING INDICATIONS THAT THE GDR IS REACTING HARSHLY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO NEW EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS. THOUGH NO PATTERN WAS EVIDENT AS YET, GDR VISITORS NOW REPORTED THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN REJECTED OUT OF HAND, SOMETIMES EVEN IN CASES WHERE THE APPLICATION WAS BASED ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION RATHER THAN HELSINKI. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAD BEGUN TO THREATEN APPLICANTS WITH PRISON SENTENCES AND, IN SEVERAL CASES, WITH HAVING THEIR CHILDREN TAKEN AWAY IF THEY CONTINUED TO APPLY. LEHMANN SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE GDR WOULD MOVE TOWARD ALLOWING FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES TO PROCEED WHILE FLATLY REJECTING OTHER EMIGRATION REQUESTS, REPRESSIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN REPORTED BY EMIGRATION APPLICANTS OF EVERY CATEGORY SINCE OCTOBER.

3. LEHMANN SAID THAT A SECOND DEVELOPMENT, EVIDENT SINCE LATE DECEMBER, LOOMED AS A STILL LARGER PROBLEM FOR THE FRG, FOR IT TOUCHED ON THE FRG/GDR TRAVEL AGREEMENTS. INCREASING NUMBERS OF FRG AND WEST BERLIN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE GDR IN RECENT WEEKS, LEHMANN REPORTED. MOST OF THE CASES INVOLVED VISITORS WITH RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN THE GDR WHO HAD APPLIED TO LEAVE. SOME FRG APPLICATIONS WERE BEING DENIED GDR VISAS OUTRIGHT, SOME WERE BEING TURNED BACK AT THE BORDER

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ALTHOUGH IN POSSESSION OF VALID GDR VISAS, AND SOME WERE BEING DETAINED INSIDE THE GDR AND ORDERED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY. LEHMANN SAID THAT SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER, THE MAJORITY OF PRESSING CASES PRESENTED BY FRG REPS TO THE GDR MFA INVOLVED FRG CITIZENS REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE GDR RATHER THAN GDR CITIZENS TRYING TO JOIN THEIR RELATIVES IN THE FRG. LEHMANN NOTED THAT FRG CITIZENS ATTEMPTING TO VISIT THEIR FIANCES IN THE GDR WERE BEING PARTICULARLY HARD HIT BY THE NEW GDR MEASURES.

4. LEHMANN DOUBTED WHETHER THESE NEW GDR RESTRICTIONS WOULD SHOW UP IN THE OVERALL GDR EMIGRATION AND VISITORS STATISTICS. THE GDR COULD IMPOSE TIGHTER CONTROLS ON CERTAIN KINDS OF EMIGRATION APPLICANTS AND CERTAIN KINDS OF GDR VISITORS AND STILL COME TO BELGRADE WITH OVERALL STATISTICS SHOWING NO DOWNSWING FROM 1976 TO 1977. AS FAR AS THE FRG WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, QUALITATIVE CHANGES IN GDR EMIGRATION AND VISITORS POLICIES WERE

AS IMPORTANT AS QUANTITATIVE CHANGES, AND THE FRG
CONSIDERED NEW RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN CATEGORIES
FO FRG VISITORS TO THE GDR AS TOUCHING ON THE SUBSTANCE
OF FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

5. REFERRING TO RECENT GDR ATTACKS ON REVANCHISM IN
THE FRG, LEHMANN SAID THAT THE SED APPARENTLY HARBORED
ILLUSIONS THAT NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH THE FRG AND
THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE WOULD WEAR AWAY AT THE FRG'S
CLAIM TO REPRESENT ALL GERMANS. THE SED THEREBY HAD
OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT THIS WAS A CONSTITUTIONAL
QUESTION IN THE FRG AND WAS THUS FRUSTRATED AT CONTINUING
MANIFESTATIONS SUCH AS THE WEINHOLD ACQUITTAL. LEHMANN
FELT THAT THE GDR WAS PLAYING UP A NEGATIVE IMAGE OF
THE FRG NOW FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AS PAR OF AN
ATTEMPT TO GET A HANDLE ON RISING EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS.
HE FELT THAT GDR ECONOMIC INTERESTS LIMITED THE EXTENT
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TO WHICH IT WOULD RISK DISTURBING THE FRG/GDR
ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP IN ITS PUBLIC ATTACKS ON THE FRG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770017-0115
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770147/aaaabown.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29dbf2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 5097
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3585146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ACCESS TO FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION BUILDING AND FRG/GDR RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29dbf2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009